

What a waste!

Feb. 2, 1977

David Wrone
Stevens Point, Wisc.

Dear Dave:

Thank you for sending along the slides and prints of 399 base, which arrived today. Normally, I am very happy to write thank you letters, but this is one I dread.

You see, it is quite apparent that a lot of time, work, and expense went into preparing those slides, with the many different exposures. There's just one problem--which is what makes me hate to write this letter.

You mentioned to me in an earlier letter that this is not the best picture of 399's base possible. Quite right, and, in fact much better ones are available. I even have a better one on a color slide. What makes this picture unique and, I think, valuable, is that it is the first to show 399's base right next to the fragments removed from Governor Connally's wrist and the Flake that fell off of 399 in 1967. To me, the picture makes it clear that the wrist fragments did not come from 399.

Thus, the major problem with your otherwise excellent copies of my slide is that they don't include the wrist fragments! Only a tiny sliver appears to the left of the picture, in the plastic case; the two major fragments have been cropped out.

A more conspiratorial mind might suggest deliberate destruction of evidence, doctoring of a vital photograph.

I wouldn't go that far, but, just out of curiosity...has the photographer ever been employed by the CIA?

At any rate, don't breath a word of this to Harold Weisberg. You know what he had to say when the Warren Commission cropped the Altgens picture.

Best wishes,

Howard Roffman

P.S. I believe you still have my B&W copy negative of the whole slide. You can still have meaningful prints made from that, as long as the base portion is not printed too darkly.